

FOR THE RECORD

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

FATHER, SON SENTENCED

A Provo father and son have been sentenced to federal prison for stealing several truckloads of rock from public lands near Wendover. U.S. District Judge Tena Campbell sentenced Michael McPhilomy Sr., 53, to 2 years in prison, and Michael McPhilomy 6, to a year. The judge also ordered the pair to pay \$40,939 in restitution. In March, a jury found the father and son guilty of stealing public property and aiding and abetting. Bureau of Land Management officers twice had warned the McPhilomys before they were arrested in one of the family's semi-trucks loaded with nearly \$11,000 worth of rock.

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PINDER JURY UNDECIDED

Jurors were unable to reach a verdict Tuesday in the murder trial of Duchesne County rancher John Pinder. He is accused of murdering employees June Flood and Rex Tanner and then blowing up the bodies in October 1998. Arguments in the nearly monthlong trial were delivered Monday. Jury members will reconvene their deliberations today.

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ONLY TRIAL PREPARATION

Former Olympic leaders Tom Welch and Dave Johnson have not even been arraigned, but U.S. District Judge David Sam is preparing for the publicity sure to surround their trial. Last week, Sam ordered lawyers to submit one extra copy of any pleading filed with the court "to facilitate public access." He also ordered the court clerk to create a duplicate case file for public and media access. Welch and

Weber, Davis Residents May Vote on T

Commissioners likely to put tax measure on November ballot

BY KRISTEN MOULTON

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Voters in Weber and Davis counties almost certainly will decide in November whether to raise sales taxes to expand bus service and build a commuter rail line north from Salt Lake City.

"You have to search high and low to find a negative comment on it," Weber County Commission Chairman Ken Bischoff said Tuesday.

Commissioners in Weber and Davis counties say they could vote later this month to put the issue on the Nov. 7 ballot.

If they do, they will have plenty of political backing. More than two dozen city councils north of Salt Lake City have endorsed the ballot measure. Only Bountiful in Davis County and Uintah at the mouth of Weber Canyon do not like the idea.

Doubling the transit tax — to a half cent on the dollar — would raise about \$12 million per year in Davis and Weber

counties. The Utah Transit Authority says the money would buy more buses, provide a match for federal funds to build a high-speed commuter rail line and fund its operation.

Such a rail line to downtown Salt Lake City is not dependent on a similar vote in Salt Lake County, said Wilf Sommerkorn, Davis County's economic-development director. The \$12 million per year could finance a small Salt Lake station and rail improvements leading north, he said.

Salt Lake County's mayors said last week they will not support a tax hike unless the Legislature removes a 1992 provision that directs a quarter of the county's transit-tax revenue to Interstate 15 construction. The mayors want a special legislative session to resolve the issue.

In Salt Lake County, a higher tax would help finance commuter rail, bolster buses and possibly extend light rail to West Valley City, West Jordan and Draper. It also could help pay future operating costs of the light-rail route being built from downtown to the University of Utah.

Weber County commissioners probably will vote in mid-August to place the proposed transit-tax increase on the ballot, Bischoff said. "I don't think it will be a hard decision for us," he said.

Davis County Commissioner Gayle Stevenson said a vote is likely in Davis County as well, although it has not yet been scheduled. Chairman Dannie McConkie is attending the Republican convention in Philadelphia.

Bountiful, less than 10 miles from Salt Lake City, is expected to oppose a higher transit tax. It's on the ballot, the newsletter and new

"Our citizens are [in Salt Lake City] quiet about it, but they ever will with

The nearest rail line is in the north," he said.

But the UTA has funded expanded bus service and a commuter rail line into southern

Utah. That would be good, but it's not enough to

North Salt Lake County endorses the higher transit tax. It's the first step toward light rail.

"Let the voters decide. There is some direction for it."

Opening a Salt Lake County commuter rail line could cost an estimated \$100 million. It would be the first stretch of rail in the southern part of the north.

Boy's Lawyers Ask Judge To Dismiss Libel Charge

Slurs against classmates, faculty not criminal, they say

BY JOE BAIRD and THOMAS BURR

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

BEAVER — Attorneys for Ian Lake filed a motion Tuesday to dismiss a criminal libel charge against the former Milford teen, claiming state statutes are unconstitutional.

But even if Lake is exonerated of the class B misdemeanor charge, it would not lead to dismissal of the criminal count,

to Schofield as the "town drunk" — false and malicious. It seeks unspecified damages.

But at Tuesday's pretrial hearing, it was Lake's attorneys who took the offensive, asking 5th District Juvenile Judge Joseph Jackson to dismiss the criminal count,

